

Appendix V: Recreational Setting Characteristics

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V. Recreational Setting Characteristics

Primitive Classification

- Physical:
 - ▶ More than ½ mile from either mechanized or motorized routes.
 - ▶ Undisturbed natural landscape.
 - ▶ No structures. Foot/horse and water trails only.
- Social:
 - ▶ Fewer than 3 encounters/day at camp sites and fewer than 6 encounters/day on travel routes.
 - ▶ Fewer than or equal to 3 people per group.
 - ▶ No alteration of the natural terrain. Footprints only observed. Sounds of people rare.
- Operational:
 - ▶ Foot, horse, and non-motorized float boat travel.
 - ▶ No maps or brochures available on-site. Staff is rarely present to provide on-site assistance.
 - ▶ No on-site posting/signing of visitor regulations, interpretive information or ethics. Few use restrictions

Back Country Classification

- Physical:
 - ▶ Within ½ mile of four-wheel drive vehicle, ATV and motorcycles routes.
 - ▶ Character of the natural landscape retained. A few modifications contrast with character of the landscape (e.g. fences, primitive roads).
 - ▶ Maintained and marked trails, simple trailhead developments and basic toilets.
- Social:
 - ▶ 3-6 encounters/day off travel routes (e.g., campsites) and 7-15 encounters/day on travel routes
 - ▶ 4-6 people per group.
 - ▶ Areas of alteration uncommon. Little surface vegetation wear observed. Sounds of people infrequent.
- Operational:
 - ▶ Mountain bikes and perhaps other mechanized use, but all is non-motorized.

- ▶ Basic maps, staff infrequently present (e.g. seasonally, high use periods) to provide on-site assistance.
- ▶ Basic user regulations at key access points. Minimum use restrictions.

Middle Country Classification

- Physical:
 - ▶ Within ½ mile of four-wheel drive vehicle, ATV and motorcycles routes.
 - ▶ Character of the natural landscape retained. A few modifications contrast with character of the landscape (e.g. fences, primitive roads).
 - ▶ Maintained and marked trails, simple trailhead developments and basic toilets.
- Social:
 - ▶ 7-14 encounters/day off travel routes (e.g., staging areas) and 15-29 encounters/ day on travel routes
 - ▶ 7-12 people per group.
 - ▶ Small areas of alteration. Surface vegetation showing wear with some bare soils. Sounds of people occasionally heard.
- Operational
 - ▶ Four-wheel drives, all-terrain vehicles, dirt bikes, or snowmobiles in addition to non-motorized, mechanized use.
 - ▶ Area brochures and maps, staff is occasionally (e.g. most weekends) present to provide on-site assistance.
 - ▶ Some regulatory and ethics signing. Moderate use restrictions. (e.g. camping, human waste).

Front Country Classification

- Physical:
 - ▶ Within ½ mile of low-clearance or passenger vehicle routes (includes unpaved County roads and private land routes).
 - ▶ Character of the natural landscape partially modified but none overpower natural landscape (e.g. roads, structures, utilities).
 - ▶ Rustic facilities such as campsites, restrooms, trailheads, and interpretive displays.
- Social:
 - ▶ 15-29 encounters/day off travel routes (e.g., campgrounds) and 30 or more encounters/day on travel routes.
 - ▶ 13-25 people per group.

- ▶ Small areas of alteration prevalent. Surface vegetation gone with compacted soils observed. Sounds of people regularly heard
- Operational:
 - ▶ Two-wheel drive vehicles predominant, but also four wheel drives and non-motorized, mechanized use.
 - ▶ Information materials describe recreation areas & activities, staff periodically present (e.g. weekdays & weekends).
 - ▶ Rules, regulations and ethics clearly posted. Use restrictions, limitations and/or closures.

Rural Classification

- Physical:
 - ▶ Within ½ mile of paved/primary roads and highways.
 - ▶ Character of the natural landscape considerably modified (agriculture, residential or industrial).
 - ▶ Modern facilities such as campgrounds, group shelters, boat launches, and occasional exhibits.
- Social:
 - ▶ People seem to be generally everywhere.
 - ▶ 26-50 people per group.
 - ▶ A few large areas of alteration. Surface vegetation absent with hardened soils. Sounds of people frequently heard.
- Operational:
 - ▶ Ordinary highway auto and truck traffic is characteristic.
 - ▶ Information described to the left, plus experience and benefit descriptions, staff regularly present (e.g. almost daily).
 - ▶ Regulations strict and ethics prominent. Use may be limited by permit, reservation, etc.

Urban Classification

- Physical:
 - ▶ Within ½ mile of streets and roads within municipalities and along highways.
 - ▶ Urbanized developments dominate landscape.
 - ▶ Elaborate full-service facilities such as laundry, restaurants, and groceries.
- Social:
 - ▶ Busy place with other people constantly in view.

- ▶ Greater than 50 people per group.
- ▶ Large areas of alteration prevalent. Some recreation. Constantly hear people.
- Operational:
 - ▶ Wide variety of street vehicles and highway traffic is ever-present.
 - ▶ Information described to the left, plus regularly scheduled on-site outdoor demonstrations and clinics.
 - ▶ Enforcement in addition to rules to reduce conflicts, hazards, and resource damage.